United Nations S/2000/965

Security Council

Distr.: General
6 October 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 6 October 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by my Government to lodge the strongest protest at the opening of the liaison office of the Republic of Albania in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, and its subsequent intention to upgrade it into a centre of Albanian subversive activities against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In lodging the protest I recall that I already drew the attention of the Security Council to this matter in my letters of 2 and 3 August 2000 (S/2000/757 and S/2000/765) under the cover of which I transmitted the protest of my Government at the illegal introduction of Regulation No. 2000/42 on the establishment and functioning of foreign liaison offices in Kosovo and Metohija by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of UNMIK on 10 June 2000 and the fact that the Republic of Albania characterized the opening of its liaison office, effected on the basis of the regulation, as the establishment of diplomatic relations between Albania and Kosovo and Metohija.

According to the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation of 27 September 2000, the Republic of Albania intends to strengthen the office by the addition of another diplomat and three experts in charge of cooperation in the field of economy, culture and education to the head of the office, who has already taken his post. It transpires that the purpose of the office is not to maintain liaison with UNMIK, as claimed by the Special Representative and head of UNMIK at the time of his consent to the opening of the office.

Of particular significance is the statement of the head of the "office" to the effect that the "mission" could be further strengthened and transformed into a diplomatic representative office which would render an "inter-State character" to the relations of Albania and Kosovo and Metohija. The statement reveals the true intentions of the Republic of Albania and is correspondent with the goals of ethnic Albanian terrorist separatists in Kosovo and Metohija: the secession of this Serbian province from Serbia and its inclusion into Greater Albania. Needless to say, the diplomatic piracy is contrary to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 and will only strengthen the hand of ethnic Albania separatism. It also constitutes a gross violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and a blatant attack on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a sovereign neighbouring State.

00-67875 (E) 091000

This act is just a reflection of a string of similar expansionist manifestations of the Republic of Albania in recent years. Albania is the only State Member of the United Nations that recognized the so-called "Republic of Kosovo" by a decision of its Parliament in October 1992, while two representative offices of that phantom Republic have been allowed to function in Tirana ever since. The "Platform for the Solution of the Albanian National Question", considered by the Albanian Parliament on the occasion of the adoption of the decision, contains open aspirations towards parts of the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Albania provided refuge to the terrorists of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army in its territory, established boot camps to train their recruits and provided a logistic base for their raids inside the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In the interview to the Vienna daily *Die Presse* of 12 September 2000, the Albanian Prime Minister stated that Kosovo and Metohija had been severed from Serbia once and for all and that it could not be its province any more.

In allowing the Republic of Albania to open the "liaison office", the Special Representative and head of UNMIK has once again turned a blind eye to the policy of hostility that the Republic of Albania conducts towards the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, its responsibility for the situation in this Serbian province and the fact that Yugoslavia has no diplomatic relations with the Republic of Albania. In that way, he has made the whole United Nations mission a function of ethnic Albanian separatism and the expansionism of the Republic of Albania.

Bearing in mind the aforementioned, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia calls on the Security Council to annul the decision of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of UNMIK to allow the Republic of Albania to establish the liaison office which will only serve the goals of furthering its illegitimate and hostile claims against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.